The Chronological Foundation: Institutionalization, Maternal Betrayal, and the Denial of Kinship (1966–1968)

This section describes the painful and formative first years of Peter Siegfried Krug, beginning with his birth on November 23, 1966, in Salzburg, as an illegitimate child, up to the late revelation of the true family circumstances.

1. The Circumstances of Birth and the Early Years

Peter Krug was born into a familial void, without grandparents, a father, or relatives. Due to this situation and the fact that his mother, then 22-year-old Herta Krug (later Bertel), refused to have an abortion, the baby was immediately placed in the Infant Home near the Salzburg Regional Hospital (Landeskrankenhaus Salzburg) after birth. Peter spent the first two years of his life in institutional care, marking the beginning of the later chain of institutional experiences at the tenderest age. Peter was never raised by his mother.

2. The Role of the Mother (Herta Brigitte Bertel, née Krug) and the Toxic Relationship

The mother was an unskilled worker at the time and later worked as a contract employee in the healthcare sector. She only visited her son at the Infant Home on weekends during the first two years. Instead of providing emotional support, the interaction was destructive: Peter experienced criticism and blame even at the tenderest age, but no touch, no laughter, and no emotional conversations. He felt like an object she picked up and returned to the home.

Analysis of Institutional Placement: The institutional placement in this specific constellation was, thankfully, the only way for him to be viable later in life, as the mother was profoundly destructive even in the brief interaction. Had the mother raised Peter, his later life would have been barely conceivable.

Out of shame or conviction, the mother refrained from demanding alimony from the biological father, which exacerbated the financial hardship and deprived Peter of the chance to know him. The truth about Peter's biological father and the history of the Infant Home was only revealed over 40 years later, which was a deep shock and source of pain for Peter.

3. The Biological Father and the Demand for Abortion

The biological father, Dr. Peter Strobl, was a doctor from Kitzbühel with whom Herta Krug was friends between 1962 and 1966. He was married and already had a family. When he learned of the pregnancy,

he demanded the mother have an abortion to protect his reputation. The mother viewed this as spineless and broke off contact, an event that likely indirectly influenced the decision to place the child in the home.

4. Analytical Significance for the Mission

This block is analytically of crucial importance:

Chronological Foundation: It shows that the dependence on institutions began not in adolescence, but as early as the tenderest infant years.

Systemic Failure: The strictly enforced social norms at the time regarding illegitimate children (shame, threat to reputation) and the lack of social security forced the mother into a hopeless situation. While the Youth Welfare System could physically protect you, the traumatic quality of the interactions with the mother, which continued even in the home, shows the gaps in systemic protection.

Emotional Core: The painful truth of the abortion demand, the late revelation, and the destructive mother-child relationship serve as emotional anchor points for the entire subsequent reappraisal.